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ABSTRACT

NASA CONNECT is a research and standards-based annual series of integrated mathematics, science, and technology instructional distance learning programs for students in grades 6-8. This program has three components: (1) a 30-minute television broadcast which can be viewed live or taped for later use; (2) a companion educator's guide including a hands-on activity; and (3) an interactive web activity which provides educators with an opportunity to integrate technology in the classroom setting. These three components are designed as an integrated instructional package. The show takes a look at the mathematical, scientific, artistic, and mythological aspects of the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) in Norway. Scientists from NASA Goddard and the Andoya Rocket Range demonstrate how to analyze auroral data using ground-based instruments, sounding rockets, and satellites. The event is designed to strengthen critical thinking skills, teach the importance of the Sun-Earth connection, stress the importance of living in a global society, and inspire the next generation of explorers. Students split into groups to solve a given problem. Once the problem has been defined, the groups have 45 minutes to provide solutions and develop a short presentation. (KHR)

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